



Cumbria and the Lake District National Park

Third Joint Annual Local Aggregates Assessment 2015 (incorporating figures for 2014)

1. The purpose of the annual Local Aggregates Assessment is for each mineral planning authority to assess the balance between the demand for and supply of aggregates. It should show whether there is a shortage or a surplus of supply. If there is a shortage, it should say how this is being addressed.
2. There are 17 operating crushed rock quarries in Cumbria; two of these are partly within and one is wholly within the Lake District National Park. There are 10 operating sand and gravel quarries; none of these are within the National Park.
3. Cumbria is self-sufficient in aggregates and also supplies other markets in the North West, especially Lancashire, as well as other regions, especially the North East. Just under a third of Cumbrian quarries supply national markets, including Wales and Scotland.
4. The national policy criteria are that a minimum 7-year landbank should be maintained for land-won sand and gravel and a 10-year one for crushed rock. These should be based on the rolling average of 10 years annual sales data, whilst 3-year average annual sales can be used to identify trends.
5. In Cumbria, including the Lake District National Park, permitted reserves of **crushed rock** at the end of 2014, were 137.06 million tonnes (Mt), 10-year average annual sales had been 3.26 Mt, representing **a landbank of 42.17 years**. For land-won **sand and gravel**, permitted reserves were 9.20 Mt, 10-year annual average sales had been 0.63 Mt, representing **a landbank of 14.60 years**.
6. Landbanks within Cumbria for those aggregates that constitute **high and very high specification roadstones** have also been considered separately from those for crushed rock for general use. The permitted reserve for these skid resistant roadstones, which supply national and regional markets, was 10.98 Mt with 10-year average sales of 0.62 Mt, giving **a landbank of 17.71 years** at the end of 2014. A planning permission in early 2015 added a further 6.81 Mt to the reserves.

7. The reserves solely for **crushed limestone for aggregate** purposes was 96.26 Mt giving a **landbank of 42.59 years**, based on 10 year rolling average sales of 2.26 Mt.
8. Although the landbanks currently exceed the minimum requirements, additional resources are required for **sand and gravel**. Sales have substantially recovered following 4 to 5 years of lower sales, and the landbank would be 13.53 years on the basis of 2014 aggregate sales. If sales recovered to 0.8Mt, as in the 10 years from 2001 to 2011, the landbank would be only 11.5 years. This is recognised in the draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan, through strategic policies and site allocations.
9. Time extensions for a number of sand and gravel quarries were granted during the calendar year 2014, and increased resources in the south and west of the county are also being considered in the draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan. However, both issues need to be kept under review.
10. Further resources for **high and very high specification roadstones** are also advisable due to their regional and national significance, and this is addressed in the draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan, through strategic policies and site allocations.
11. Limestone aggregate sales have not recovered as well as sand and gravel, with an 18% increase compared to 2013. However, the landbank for aggregate limestone would still be 14 years in 2030, even if average sales of 3Mt, last seen in 2001, were achieved for the entire period.
12. The supply of crushed limestone for industrial purposes, is not covered in the landbanks considered above, and should be kept under review.
13. National policy requires that landbanks should, as far as practical, be maintained from outside National Parks and other landscape designations. This may constrain the supplies of crushed rock that Cumbria can make to other parts of the country in the future.
14. More detail on the aggregates assessment than is contained in this 'headline' document, is to be found in the 'Cumbria and Lake District National Park Joint Annual Local Aggregates Assessment 2015: Supporting Information', dated October 2015, available from:
http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/policy/minerals_waste/MWLP/LAA.asp and also on the Lake District National Park website: <http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/>

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